



Endangered and Threatened Species and Critical Habitats  
under the Jurisdiction of the NOAA Fisheries Service



## Gulf of Mexico

Listed Species	Scientific Name	Status	Date Listed
<b>Marine Mammals</b>			
blue whale	<i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
finback whale	<i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
humpback whale	<i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
sei whale	<i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
sperm whale	<i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
<b>Turtles</b>			
green sea turtle	<i>Chelonia mydas</i>	Threatened <sup>1</sup>	07/28/78
hawksbill sea turtle	<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>	Endangered	06/02/70
Kemp's ridley sea turtle	<i>Lepidochelys kempii</i>	Endangered	12/02/70
leatherback sea turtle	<i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	Endangered	06/02/70
loggerhead sea turtle	<i>Caretta caretta</i>	Threatened	07/28/78
<b>Fish</b>			
Gulf sturgeon	<i>Acipenser oxyrinchus desotoi</i>	Threatened	09/30/91
smalltooth sawfish	<i>Pristis pectinata</i>	Endangered	04/01/03
<b>Invertebrates</b>			
elkhorn coral	<i>Acropora palmata</i>	Threatened	5/9/06
staghorn coral	<i>Acropora cervicornis</i>	Threatened	5/9/06

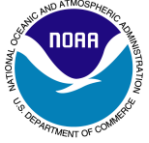
### Designated Critical Habitat

Gulf Sturgeon: A final rule designating Gulf sturgeon critical habitat was published on March 19, 2003 (68 FR 13370) and 14 geographic areas (units) among the Gulf of Mexico rivers and tributaries were identified. Maps and details regarding the final rule can be found at [alabama.fws.gov/gs](http://alabama.fws.gov/gs)

Elkhorn and Staghorn Corals: All waters in the depths of 98 ft (30 m) and shallower to the mean low water line surrounding the Dry Tortugas, Florida. Within these specific areas, the essential feature consists of natural consolidated hard substrate or dead coral skeleton that are free from fleshy or turf macroalgae cover and sediment cover. Maps and details regarding coral critical habitat can be found at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/esa/acropora.htm>

Smalltooth Sawfish: A final rule designating smalltooth sawfish critical habitat was published on September 2, 2009 (74 FR 45353). Critical habitat consists of two coastal habitat units: the Charlotte Harbor Estuary Unit and the Ten Thousand Islands/Everglades Unit. Maps and details regarding the smalltooth sawfish critical habitat rule can be found at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/SmalltoothSawfish.htm>

<sup>1</sup> Green turtles are listed as threatened, except for breeding populations of green turtles in Florida and on the Pacific Coast of Mexico, which are listed as endangered.



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Candidate Species <sup>2</sup>	Scientific Name
largetooth sawfish	<i>Pristis pristis</i>

Species of Concern <sup>3</sup>	Scientific Name
<b>Fish</b>	
Alabama shad	<i>Alosa alabamae</i>
dusky shark	<i>Carcharhinus obscurus</i>
largetooth sawfish	<i>Pristis pristis</i>
night shark	<i>Carcharhinus signatus</i>
saltmarsh topminnow	<i>Fundulus jenkinsi</i>
sand tiger shark	<i>Carcharias taurus</i>
speckled hind	<i>Epinephelus drummondhayi</i>
Warsaw grouper	<i>Epinephelus nigritus</i>
<b>Invertebrates</b>	
ivory bush coral	<i>Oculina varicosa</i>

<sup>2</sup> The Candidate Species List has been renamed the Species of Concern List. The term “candidate species” is limited to species that are the subject of a petition to list and for which NOAA Fisheries Service has determined that listing may be warranted (69 FR 19975).

<sup>3</sup> Species of Concern are not protected under the Endangered Species Act, but concerns about their status indicate that they may warrant listing in the future. Federal agencies and the public are encouraged to consider these species during project planning so that future listings may be avoided.